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MONOGRAPH

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ALLEN ABEL RAWSON, M. D.

AND EARLY DAYS OF

Allen Abel Rawson

ADAMS COUNTY, IOWA.

24

RED OAK, IOWA:
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[Rawson, Allen Abel, 1831-1900]

Monograph of Allen Abel Rawson, M.D., and
early days of Adams County, Iowa. Red Oak,
Ia., Thos. D. Murphy, 1900.

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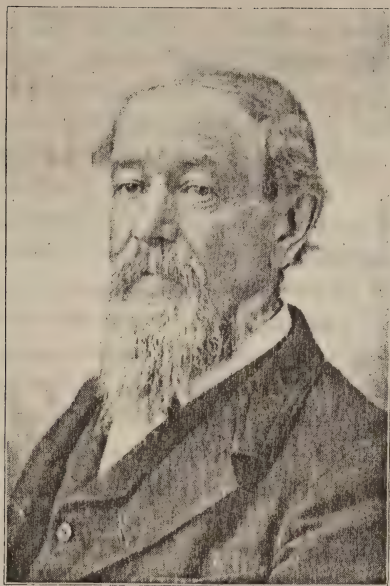
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ALLEN A. RAWSON—MAY, 1856.

1855-56





ALLEN A. RAWSON.

INTRODUCTORY.

So far as is known, it is believed that with possibly two exceptions, the progenitor of those who bear the surname "Rawson" in the United States was Edward Rawson, who emigrated from England to Newberry, Mass., in the year 1637, or perhaps 1636, and who for many years held a colonial office for England. (See the Century dictionary and cyclopedia.)

Allen Abel Rawson is a lineal descendant from Edward Rawson above named of the seventh generation, and was born at Tiffin, Seneca county, Ohio, March 14, 1831. His early life was but a repetition of that of every boy and youth living in hopes and visions of the future. His education was derived from the public schools, followed by the freshman year at Western Reserve college, then located at Hudson, Ohio, at the close of which ill health compelled him to stop.

April 2, 1849, he began the study of medicine at Tiffin, Ohio, but in the following year entered the office of an uncle at Findlay, Ohio, a town afterwards forming the center of a booming oil and natural gas region.

August 25, 1851, owing to continued ill health, he accompanied his father, Abel Rawson, to the State of Iowa, with headquarters at Iowa City, then the capital of the State. During a visit at the time to former family friends, about twenty miles from Iowa City, came the first responsibility to young Rawson in the practice of medicine.

Owing to distance from medical aid, Mr. Rawson was solicited to take charge of several sick families in the vicinity of his friends. With great anxiety the task was undertaken, and a favorable result proved a consolation to the embryo doctor, who dates his first experience in the medical art to the last days of August, 1851, at the age of twenty years, in the State which afterwards became his home.

He returned to Ohio December 23, 1851, and continued his studies with an uncle in Fremont, Ohio.

June 2, 1852, he again accompanied his father to Iowa. While in Iowa on this last visit he was sent by his father on business to the town of Newton, in Jasper county.

It happened that the proprietor of the hotel where Mr. Rawson put up was the county recorder, and also a practicing physician. Learning of his guest what he professed, the inn keeper insisted that he should take charge of the temporary relief of a patient of his of abdominal dropsy. Mr. Rawson protested, and suggested that the physician call in some other one in the town, instead of a person who was a stranger.

The physician claimed there was no one whom he would trust more than he would a stranger, in the town, and finally Mr. Rawson took the case in hand and drew away six and one-half gallons of water, to the great relief of the sufferer.

Newton, in that early day, was made up of barely enough inhabitants to let it be called a town in a primitive way, and was situated upon an east and west line of travel by stage coach, to be afterwards found upon the line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway.

November 25, 1852, Mr. Rawson entered his first course of medical lectures in Rush Medical College,

at Chicago, Ill., session of 1852 and 1853, including attendance at the city hospital and the United States Marine hospital.

March 24, 1853, he made a temporary location in Henry and Fulton counties, Ohio, but on the evening of May 11 following, he lost his office and limited fixtures by fire. The building was a log cabin of one room, like the majority of the country houses thereabouts, and his loss was a special incentive to seek a location elsewhere.

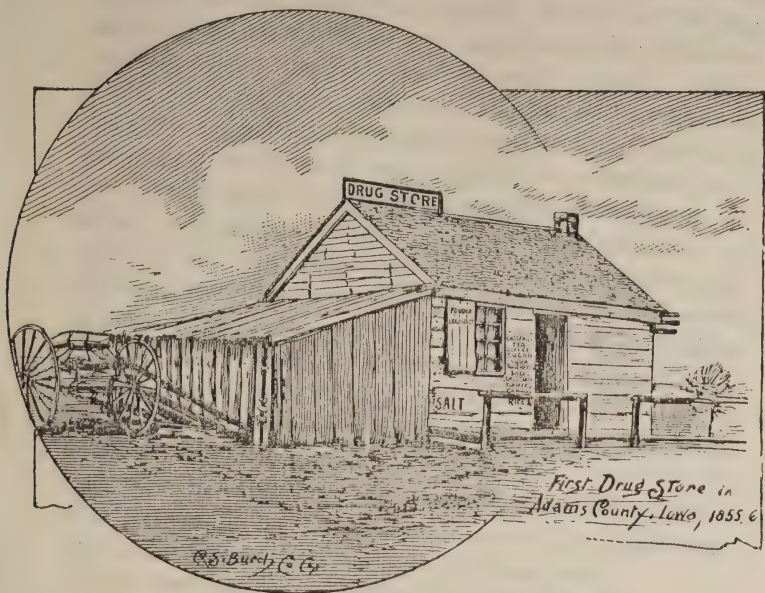
July 25, 1853, he took up his residence at Fremont, Ohio, where he remained with indifferent successes as a physician until November, 1854, when he began a second course of lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., with hospital clinics as before, and graduated, receiving his diploma, dated February 21, 1855.

Dr. Rawson's brother, Homer Clark Rawson, graduated in medicine at the same time and place. Dr. Allen A. returned to Fremont, Ohio, but found the field so occupied by others in his profession with superior prestige that he felt like abandoning that location and renew an effort in a land which might give better opportunities to a young man.

November 12, 1855, the father and the only and younger brother, Homer C. Rawson, M. D., had arrived in Quincy, the county seat of Adams county, Iowa, where they were delayed by a severe storm, an introduction to an Iowa blizzard. They were on their way by private conveyance to Nebraska City, Neb., with a location in view, but deemed it best for the brother to stop in Quincy for the winter and season of inclement weather before proceeding further. The father returned to Ohio after the purchase of lot two, in block nine, in Quincy, having thereon a log house of one room

with one window and door, which might serve as a temporary purpose for the use of the youngster.

It remained for more than forty-three years a reminder of early days to former occupants and the opening locality of the first drug store in Adams county, Iowa, 1855 and 1856. Stimulated by this experience of his brother, May 5, 1856, Dr. A. A. Rawson left Ohio



FIRST DRUG STORE IN ADAMS COUNTY, 1855-56.

for Iowa to try anew in what could be called an undeveloped country.

With his father, Abel Rawson, of Tiffin, Ohio, the two went by railroad to St. Louis, where they purchased a small assortment of drugs and sundries, and thence the wanderers made their way by a steamboat up the

Missouri river somewhat over five hundred miles to St. Joseph, Mo. From that point they went by stage coach to Savannah, fifteen miles, where a carriage and driver were hired which took them north about ninety miles to Quincy, in Adams county, Iowa, the then home of the brother, where they arrived May 28, 1856.

A population of probably less than one hundred was found in Quincy, occupying houses mostly of the log cabin style. Everything was found to be on a friendly level and primitive scale in town and country. Mails were delivered from town to town east, and west, once a week, or sometimes but once in two or three weeks, by horseback, or by horse and buggy during the first year. An almost utter lack of bridges caused great inconvenience in transit and in travel. Practice of medicine by both the brothers, one twenty-five and the other twenty-three years of age, was found to interfere with an opening business of drugs and groceries and led to a joint firm of A. A. & H. C. Rawson as druggists, which H. C. Rawson intended to take special charge of and let the practice of medicine generally devolve upon the senior brother. Dr. Waitman Trippett had preceded the Rawsons into Quincy, and was the first physician in Adams county; a generous and reasonable gentleman, and attentive and kind in a professional way.

The first two years of the Rawsons' business experience required the utmost economy in use of revenues to live, but it was met with reliance upon the future outcome, in other words, hopes of coming developments which served to sustain aspirations and incentive to effort. The ages of twenty-five and twenty-three years respectively were invited into a country of like youth in development with themselves, waiting to nourish new scenes for profit and to partake of them with pleasure.

PRELIMINARY.

Various questions have been asked about early days of Adams county, which could not be readily answered, and the following monograph is intended to satisfy the inquirer. To do so involved personal interviews with those who have not long here to linger, and reference to obscure and deficient records.

The first four years during and after 1853 have virtually left no intelligent record, and in some respects none whatever. It is proper to name some assistants whose memory could take the place of written record sufficient to fill the blank with a supply which can mainly be depended upon as correct, viz:

H. G. Ankeny.

Clark D. Lawrence.

E. Y. Burgan.

Isaac N. Poston.

Gideon Farris.

Felix G. Schooling.

J. W. Fees.

A. L. Wells and the compiler, with a few others from olden time.

J. R. Holbrook.

EARLY DAYS OF ADAMS COUNTY.

After the aforesaid preliminary writing it will be proper to anticipate in part and to insert a concise and somewhat associated detail of historical character in connection with the state and Adams county as follows:

The state of Iowa was derived from the vast western territory, included, more or less, in the Mississippi valley, once called the "Province of Louisiana," claimed successively by England, Spain and France, which in 1803 became in part the so-called "Louisiana purchase" by the United States. The district northwest of the Ohio river was called the Northwest territory, once forming in part the Indiana and Missouri territories, and by congress was partially set off into the territory of Wisconsin, July, 1836, from which finally the territory of Iowa was separated and organized July 4, 1838. Subsequently in April and August, 1845, the state had rejected the constitution, then twice presented to the popular vote of Iowa. Congress conditionally agreed to admit it as a state by a previous act of March 3, 1845, but afterwards, August 3, 1846, the state constitution having been amended as required in state convention, was adopted by the people and Iowa was finally admitted by congress, in unison with the other states December 28, 1846, going into effect July 4, 1847, by enrollment among other states, and reciprocally accepted by Iowa January 15, 1849.

Adams county boundaries and name "Adams" were established and given among other counties to be organized in the southwest part of the state, by act of the Iowa legislature approved January 15, 1851.

The county, by act of the legislature approved January 12, 1853, was declared to be organized from and after the first Monday in March, 1853, through Amos Lowe, of Montgomery county, as organizing sheriff, having duties somewhat similar to those of the present county clerk. From October 1, 1834, to December 7, 1836, Adams county had been known as embraced in the county of Des Moines.

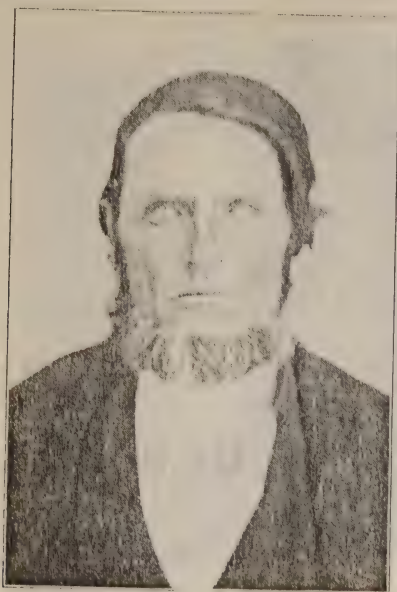
COUNTY AREA.

Adams county is eighteen by twenty-four miles, making 432 square miles.

APPROXIMATE ELEVATION OF THE COUNTY, TO-WIT:

Low water of the Mississippi river at Burlington, Iowa, as a basis for reference, is 486 feet above the sea level, measuring from and above which point of low water, on the line of railroad going west makes the elevation of	Feet.
Adam county's east border - - - - -	715
Corning - - - - -	622
East Nodaway river - - - - -	496
Middle Nodaway river - - - - -	496
West Nodaway river - - - - -	593
Summit between East and Middle Nodaway rivers	648
Nodaway Station - - - - -	575
Villisca - - - - -	553
Average county elevation - - - - -	634
Elevation above the sea (average) - - - - -	1120

Lowest point in Iowa is low water at Keokuk, forty-two feet below Burlington low water, and 444 feet above sea level. The highest point between Burlington and the Missouri river is 794 feet above Burlington low water, at Highland, about three miles south of west of Afton, and five miles south of east of Creston, in Union



GIDEON FARRIS--SEPTEMBER, 1852.

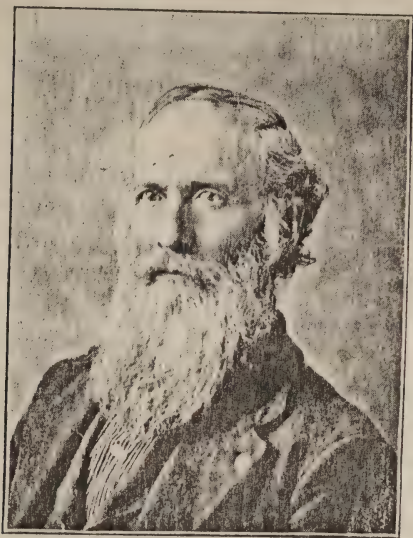
county, 1280 feet above the sea. (See White's Geology of Iowa, 1866 to 1869.)

The first election for county officers was ordered by act of legislature January 12, 1853, to be held the first Monday (4) in April following; the returns of election to be made to the organizing sheriff for record. The

14 MONOGRAPH OF ALLEN A. RAWSON, M. D.

election was held at the house of Isaac Poston, situated one-half mile west of the present town of Quincy. The locality even now is recognizable, though the house is gone; section eighteen (18), town seventy-two (72), range thirty-four (34).

At said election thirteen (13) votes are said to have been cast, to-wit: Samuel Baker, Jacob Bowman, Gid-



J. W. FEES—AUGUST, 1853.

eon Farris, John Fees, Jacob Harader, I. N. Poston, Adam Poor, Robert H. Schooling, Elijah Walters, Morgan Warren, Samuel Hardesty, Isaac Walters, Thomas Davis. It is uncertain whether James Sprague was a voter at this election, probably not.

The second election was held the first Monday in April, 1854, in Quincy, at a log house a little northeast

or northwest of and near the public square; the owner uncertain, as well as the precise locality.

The name "Quincy" for the county seat was given in the act of January 12, 1853, when also was appointed William Davis, of Mills county; John Buckingham, of Page county, and James B. Campbell, of Taylor county, to meet at McCalpin's Mills, near Hawleyville, in Page county, and proceed to locate the county east for Adams county March 12, 1853; this was done by the two first named, the last one not being present.

The town plat of Quincy was laid upon vacant and government land, but soon after was entered of the United States by Jacob M. B. Miller, a newcomer, under contract to do so and receive pay by reserving about half the town lots; Waitman Trippett surveyor.

County elections were during that time held the first Monday in April and August, but in 1857 the time was changed to the second Tuesday in October, excepting that in the presidential years of election they were ordered to be held in November.

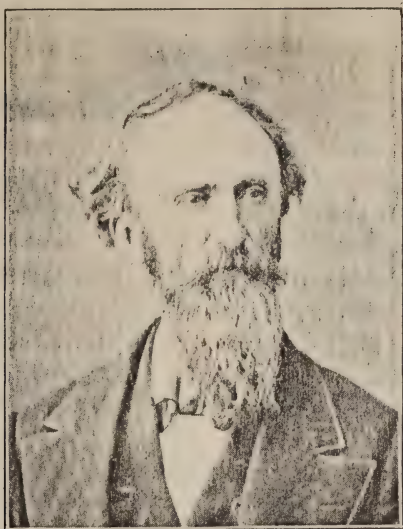
Isaac N. Poston first visited Adams county in February, 1852. He filed for entry on land in section eighteen (18), town seventy-two (72), range thirty-four (34), about half a mile west of Quincy, but was too poor to pay for it, and sold his claim to William Wilson, who soon after entered it at Council Bluffs land office. Poston then lived in a small log house which he built in the timber, surrounded with snow one or two feet deep. His oldest son was the first boy born in Adams county, and a daughter the second girl baby born in the county.

The first settlers in Adams county were said to be Elijah Walters and son Isaac, with others of the family. They were a perfect type of the Daniel Boone pioneer. They originally settled upon land in section twenty-

nine (29), town seventy-two (72), range thirty-four (34), a farm now owned by Henry G. Ankeny.

The small creek near by received its present name from the family, Walter's branch.

The second family is understood to have been that of Adam Poor. The third or fourth was probably that of Morgan Warren, the best type of a genial, whole-souled



HENRY G. ANKENY—SEPTEMBER, 1856.

man and friend, but destined to be cut off in later years by risky venture through a freshet.

The first county assessment tax list was made in 1853, Robert H. Schooling, assessor. The population of the county at the time (April, 1853,) was probably less than sixty-five persons. Owing to some irregularity the tax list for 1853, as well as the one for 1854, following, were legalized by act of the legislature January 25,

1856. All records showing name and values of that first list are missing from official depositories.

The second county assessment tax list was made by A. B. Taylor for the whole county, because there was no sub-division into townships. It was made in 1854, and the population of the county then was reported 339 persons. The names embraced in the tax list are as follows, divided into residents, transients and non-residents, viz:

RESIDENTS.

Burgan, Elmore Y.	Miller, J. M. B.
Baker, Samuel.	Miller, John W.
Barnes, Allen.	McMaines, Smith.
Crow, William.	Neal, Benjamin.
Crater, Amos.	Nusbaum, Henry.
Colvin, John.	Osborn, John P.
Colvin, John H.	Oyler, Henry.
Davis, Thomas H.	Poston, L. N.
Davis, William F.	Prickett, Isaac.
Evans, William R.	Prickett, Levi.
Emmis, Thomas.	Prickett, James.
Fees, John.	Pumroy, Dugal C.
Fees, J. K.	Powell, Joel F.
Fees, Simson.	Powell, Harrison.
Farris, Gideon.	Query, John.
Hart, Dan D.	Ritchey, L. V.
Hardesty, Samuel.	Smith, J. H.
Henry, Robert.	Shuman, Thomas.
Harader, Jacob.	Shuman, Moses.
Houck, John.	Schooling, Robert H.
Harriman, W. H.	Shea, Daniel.
Holbrook, Joseph R.	Sprague, James.
Larimer, Samuel.	Trippett, Waitman.

Lawrence, J. H.	Turney, Jacob.
Lawrence, Peter.	Tucker, Lewis.
Leuellen, James.	Taylor, A. B.
Lockwood, R. B.	Tucker, David.
Morton, John.	Thompson, Thomas.
Myers, Jacob.	Warren, Morgan.
Marshall, Joseph.	Walters, Elijah.
Marshall, Charles.	Walters, Isaac.

TRANSIENTS.

Day, Calvin.	Healy, Thomas.
Sherman, Frederick.	

NON-RESIDENTS.

Barnes, G. N.	Miller & Williams.
Chapman, J. P.	Palmer, O. C.
Denman, H.	Renaud, J., agt for Icaria.
Carlyle, Z. A.	Smith, W. L.
Godridge, Benjamin.	Sullivan, A. J.
Logan, L. C.	Warren, John.
Larimer, W. K.	Williams, Jesse.
J. W. & Co.—(As written meaning uncertain.)	

The total assessed valuation of the foregoing tax list for the county in 1854 amounted to \$32,021, and at the August term of the county court, by Jacob M. B. Miller, county judge, a tax levy was made and issued to John H. Colvin, treasurer and collector, October 15, 1854, signed by John H. Colvin, prosecuting attorney, and acting county judge in vacancy, according to law; the tax levy being, viz: State revenue, one and one-quarter mills; county and poor fund, five mills; school, one and one-half mills; road, three mills; bridge over before written, in 1854, because there was no sub-divi-

Nodaway river, one mill; road poll, \$2; poll, fifty cents.

The second county election was held in Quincy, as sion of the county into townships, therefore, but one voting precinct. The voting list is said to have footed up: Whigs 17, Democrats 19 names, total 36 votes; there being perhaps very few who were not entitled to vote, owing to uncertainty of a legal residence;



E. Y. BURGIAN—APRIL 1851.

although in such a diminutive assembly it does not at this distance seem worth while to have had a contest, though an attempt to give rise to ballot stuffing seems mighty easy to have been done.

County business was done in the first years through a county judge. The first attempted records of county

affairs were lost or disappeared sometime in the early '60s, probably before 1863, but valuable assistance has been derived from the very few survivors of a late period, so that dependence can be placed upon this narrative, combined also with search through obscure records scattered through various and anomalous business features and transactions of every character and variety. Following is a list of county officers, 1853 to 1861:

COUNTY JUDGE.—First elect, April, 1853, Samuel Baker; second elect, 1854, Jacob M. B. Miller; third elect, 1855, John Barnett; fourth elect, 1855 to August, 1857, Waitman Trippett; fifth elect, September 1, 1857, Robert Mansfield, resigned October 13 following; sixth elect, 1858, June 12, William A. Shields, until December 31, 1860, when county business was changed and embraced in a board of supervisors, while the county judge acted for probate matters only afterwards—1861, etc.

In all vacancies of the county judge's office in the above period the duties were by law performed by the county prosecuting attorney or by the county clerk. Other county officers were, 1853 to 1861, inclusive, to-wit:

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT.—First elect, Isaac N. Poston, April, 1853; second elect, Robinson B. Lockwood; third elect, Henry G. Ankeny, resigned for civil war service in 1861; fourth elect, John Bixby, appointed 1861.

TREASURER AND RECORDER.—First elect, John H. Colvin, 1853; second, Alexander Ramsay, 1857. The offices were then combined, but separated by law April 5, 1864.

SHERIFF.—Nominally elect Isaac Walters, who re-

fused and was succeeded by the so-called and agreed first elect, Henry Oyler, 1853; second, John W. Miller; third, James Hunter, (resigned Sept. 18, 1858); fourth, John W. Morris, (appointed); fifth, Joel F. Powell.

COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.—First elect, Joseph R. Holbrook, 1854; second, John Colvin; third,



J. W. MORRIS—AUGUST, 1855.

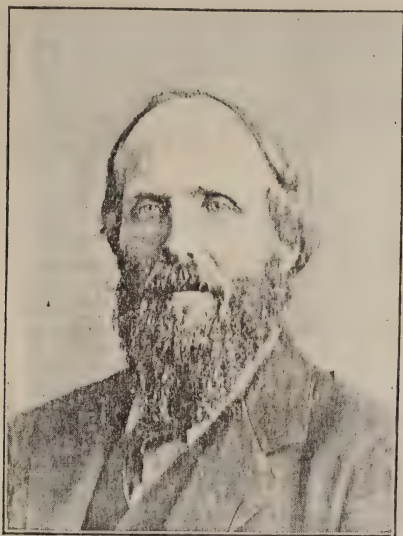
Frank M. Davis. In October, 1858, by change in law, elected a district attorney for four years.

The first elect school fund commissioner was William F. Davis; the second was Benjamin Neal. The law was changed to school superintendent and the first elect was Edmund Homan, May 17, 1858; second, Reuben

Aldridge, October 1859 to October 1861; Edmund Homan again, October, 1861.

COUNTY SURVEYOR.—First elect, Waitman Trippett; deputy, James McYoung; second elect, L. W. Graham; deputy, Frank M. Davis.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.—First elect, April, 1853, Thomas Davis and Samuel Hardesty.



EDMUND HOMAN—NOVEMBER 1854 AND 1855
SPRING OF 1856.

DRAINAGE COMMISSIONER.—First elect, April, 1853, Robert H. Schooling. Afterwards J. R. Plowman and Zachariah Lawrence, date unknown, records obscure.

CORONER.—First elect, H. B. Clark, 1856 or 1857; second, William Lockwood, 1860 or 1861. Records of this office are virtually obsolete, and the positions were insignificant.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.—For the county began by law in January, 1861, and were represented as follows:

Colony township, John Bixby.

Carl township, J. C. Robinson.

Washington township, Thomas H. Davis.

Union township, O. B. Case.

Queen City, Samuel Larimer.



JOHN BARNETT—AUGUST, 1851.

Quincy township, Frank M. Davis.

Jasper township, Hiram L. Harlow.

Nodaway township, Wesley Irwin.

John Barnett represented the rest of the county, what is now sub-divided into Grant, Mercer, Lincoln and Douglas townships.

The organizations of the various townships were ordered as follows, viz:

Colony township, 1858, February 1.

Carl township, 1859, August 1.

Washington township, 1858, March 8.

Lincoln township, 1868, September 7.

Union township, 1856 or 1858.

Prescott township, called Queen City township, December, 1857; changed to present name September, 1858.

Quincy township, 1856 or before, uncertain. At first comprised the whole county.

Douglas township, called Farmington from May 28, 1860, changed to present name October, 1861, by public vote.

Grant township, 1870.

Mercer township, 1868, June.

Jasper township, 1856 or before, uncertain.

Nodaway township, 1859, April 4.

Judge Baker had left the county before the expiration of his term of office, upon which and until the election of J. M. B. Miller succeeding judge, Joseph R. Holbrook, the prosecuting attorney, acted as county judge during the vacancy.

The first grist mill in the county was erected on the Middle Nodaway river by Elijah Walters before named, and the locality was long after known as Walters' Mill, but finally as Carbon. It was fitted in part with a second-hand set of mill stones which Mr. Walters brought from Savannah, Mo., about ninety miles south. In 1854 or 1855 John Houck attempted to erect and set to work a saw mill about a mile northeast of Walters' on the same stream, but the effort led to a tedious lawsuit with Walters, founded on the question of water obstructions, but was finally given up by Mr. Houck.

On or about 1856 Christian Harader built a saw and grist mill about two and a half to three miles on the same stream above Walters' mill, at a point since known as Eureka. The stones for grinding were fashioned and perfected for the purpose by Mr. Harader out of large boulders which were found in the vicinity and answered the purpose well enough to obviate using grain whole and calling it ground.

Indications favorable to early progress of the railroad from the east, was for a time such as to promise completion through Adams county, and acted as a temporary stimulous to hopes and to enterprise.

Mails had changed to three times a week, then at last to daily, with coaches for carrying passengers.

The Rawson brothers were induced by the outlook to erect a store building upon the north half of lot 691 in Corning, in the early autumn of 1859.

They attempted a division of business, but after a trial through the winter of 1860, it was evident that the movement of the railroad from Burlington west had become too sluggish to sustain the prior impulse of youth and the prestige of Corning for the time being. It appeared that the political horizon of the United States was rapidly becoming darkened by the mutterings of the civil war, enough to cause a halt in many public enterprises. Therefore, in the autumn of 1860 it was concluded to remove their Corning house and place it upon lot number four (4), in block nineteen (19), in Quincy, especially so as the original log cabin house had been disposed of. The undertaking was a considerable one in that day. A huge wagon was constructed for the purpose, under the supervision of the Rawsons, aided by Mr. Burgan and others, in its details, design and work. By means of some twenty-seven yoke of

cattle (oxen) attached in front and on each side in the rear, the building moved away and the change of location was accomplished within three to four days, amid the jeers and smiles of many of the Quincy people, while gratifying curiosity to see the thing moving over the prairie.

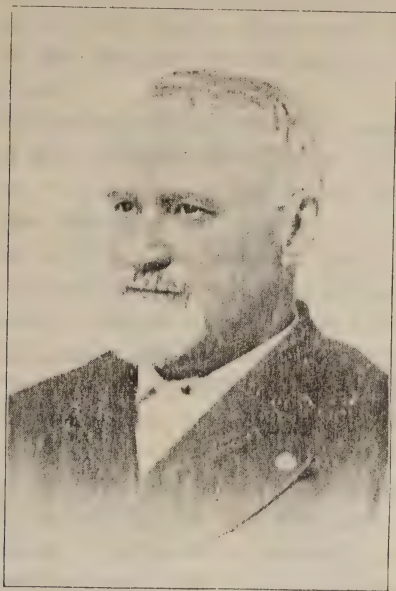
Pleasantry was returned and the answer given that it was only for a time, because of adverse events to public improvements, and we, with some of our jokers, would see the day to return.

The fact was, the means of the Rawsons for information was better than the public knew. They had plats of the line of projected railroad through the western four counties of the state, with indications of stopping points, given to them in confidence, and felt that they had best bide the time, though it was not expected that they wait so long as finally they did do. Young blood was confident and dignified, so that it was agreed to meet criticism and opposition with only a conciliatory return.

They believed that Quincy was doomed some day in the future. Dr. Rawson and his brother would have favored any project for their then home town, which might promise to it a reasonable success, but reports from engineers as well as from even better authority, privately given, made it appear impossible for any action to avail for the security of Quincy under the aid of railroad prospects.

In May, 1857, the town of Corning was surveyed and plat recorded. D. N. Smith (once a Methodist reverend) was apparent proprietor, though Rev. George Loomis held the largest interest, and some others minor shares. Frank M. Davis was the principal surveyor. In October following the town of Queen City was surveyed and

recorded by other interested parties. Both towns were claimants for future railroad favors, and they laid foundations for a county seat change and contest, which was not settled for years. The interests of the Rawsons held to Corning, owing to private pledges that the Burlington & Missouri River railroad, later the Chica-



F. M. DAVIS—AUGUST, 1855.

go, Burlington & Quincy railroad, would show for itself, as it did do at the close.

Although the nature of such a wrangle as the county seat quarrel was enough to condemn any such incident as being unfortunate to any county, the inspiration of the hour was sufficient to sustain life and hopes in the future, and amid all difficulties to support a dreary, waiting period.

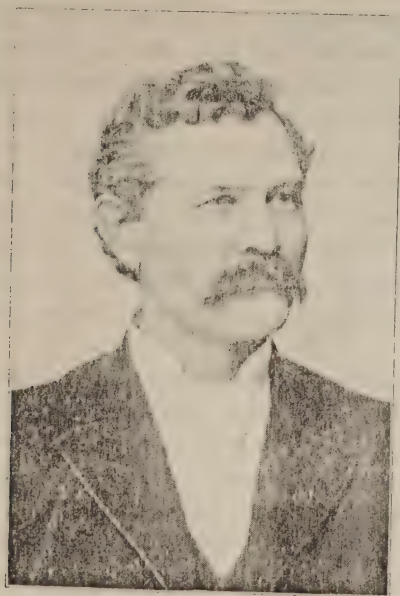
Both the Rawsons early aided in the organization of the Republican party in Adams county in 1856, etc., and of course were in sympathy with northern opposition to the amazing self-assurance of slave aristocracy, with demands by the south for its special institution. This was done by the two youngsters with no design upon political and official aspirations, since neither one has followed such course further than party support of others, and in the simplest public service, virtually aside from politics.

The year 1860 passed without notable event, further than connected with political disturbance of the whole country. Iowa was a unit for the union, and Adams county had few citizens who shared the destructive feeling of the south. One man, a quite well-to-do farmer, gave so great liberty to the use of his tongue in opposition to others that on one occasion his neck was threatened with a rope, and on another an enthusiastic returned soldier gave the brawler such a shaking that his face lost its usual color, and his mouth its wonted speech. Another farmer took the life of a returned soldier, home on a furlough, with no provocative except his own violent sympathy for the rebellion, and as a consequence he never cultivated a cornfield again.

The year 1861 opened with a crash of domestic war and a rush to arms.

The question of the removal of the county seat was not allowed to slumber, much as quiet and delay was desired by Dr. Rawson for the sake of substantiating the proper course if it should come. Difference of opinion was aroused to frivolous discussion, and finally February 7, 1859, the first attempt was made by H. A. Smurr, A. J. Kridelbaugh, S. Larimer and some other partisans of Queen City to bring to a vote at the Octo-

ber election in 1859 the question of the removal of the county seat from Quincy to Queen City, and was granted. A petition for removal had been circulated and the Rawsons felt that it must be met, but nothing further was done that year. The Rawsons were opposed to a vote on the question which did not at first show evidence favorable to any point foreign to Quincy,



W. O. MITCHELL—APRIL, 1872.

and so convince the public of its propriety. By quiet investigation a fair knowledge was obtained of the contents of the petition for removal, and a remonstrance thereto was circulated by Dr. Rawson, care being used to obtain only the names of those who had signed the petition with few exceptions. Waiting until the peti-

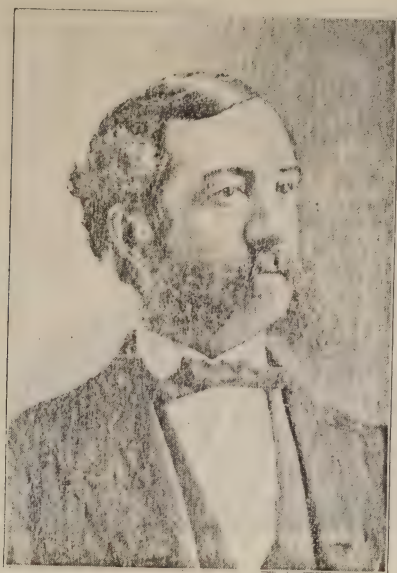
tion asking for a vote was presented to the county board of supervisors at their June session, 1862, and set apart for consideration, and not likely to be withdrawn, the remonstrance was filed by a friendly member, Peter K. Lawrence. Amid the sudden consternation on the part of principal actors action was postponed until the next session in September following. It was then found that so many names on the petition were cancelled by the same on the remonstrance that the requisite number was lost, and the vote was rejected, to the chagrin of Queen City votaries and deep curses cast on the Rawsons. There is no distinct reference to the subject upon the county records, after February 7, 1859, to the present year, 1862, for some unknown cause. After a continued struggle for a very few years, Queen City lost all standing and force, and finally passed into the possession of W. O. Mitchell, Esq., to whom it was worth more than it was to its original founders.

During the civil war the Rawsons were trusted agents of some of the enlisted men from Adams county, and received considerable sums of money for distribution to families of soldiers, besides being of personal attention on the part of Dr. A. A. Rawson to those who might be home on a furlough and might require medical aid.

Owing to the disposition in a self-sufficient way of a citizen, A. K. Crawford, to assume superior prerogatives to public recognition and office it was deemed for mischief sake well enough to prevent his re-appointment to the postoffice of Quincy, which had about expired, as a Democratic employe. Mr. Crawford forwarded a fully signed petition for the office. Dr. A. A. Rawson was suggested, but preferred his brother in opposition. A petition was presented with perhaps half a dozen

names, and sent to a friend, then a member of congress. He was successful in the appointment of Homer C. Rawson as postmaster of Quincy, to the surprise of Crawford and some others. This was early in the year 1863.

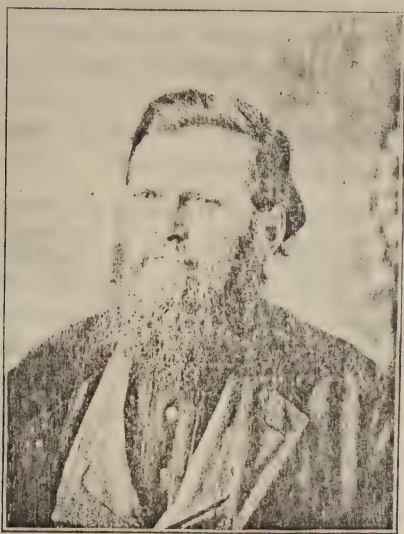
The office continued with H. C. Rawson for two and one-half years, and then was resigned into the charge



H. C. RAWSON—NOVEMBER, 1855.

of one W. E. McDuffee, who was suggested to the post-office department. The business of the postoffice had been largely dependent upon Dr. A. A. Rawson, who, being single, occupied the store room, and its attention was very annoying to him. Mails were daily by a line of coach and four, and oft irregular, from 3 o'clock a. m. till 5 and 6 o'clock after, from the east. It was a

relief to deliver the office into other hands. From this time on to the close of the civil war in 1865 evidences of great conflict gradually spread over the land, our county included. One by one, seldom a group, the veterans returned to their homes in promiscuous attire and physical condition. They forced their way to the war front under every phase of inconvenience; unkempt



CLARK D. LAWRENCE—APRIL, 1855.

stock cars, when at hand, sometimes on foot as well. Modern rail coaches, sleeping cars, upholstered seats and other personal comforts were nearly unknown, unless perchance by special accident or favor. Delicacies and ice were unthought of for soldiers of those days; often whisky was the only panacea for sore and blistered feet, and many a pint was emptied into burning boots and shoes as the soldier walked to calamity or to death.

All this not for play, not for sober contemplation, not for idle curiosity, but to preserve the heart, the pulse of a nation to a life of higher plane and reconstructed peace.

Here follows the record of enlistments in the desperate service from Adams county, Iowa, alone, where were all their affiliations and fireside homes. The list, therefore, does not represent the whole of companies, merely the Adams county enlisted quota. Each company of enlisted men and officers would contain about 120 individuals:

Explanation:—Killed, k. Wounded and died, w and d. Wounded, w. Died from disease, d.

COMPANY H, FOURTH IOWA REGIMENT.

E. Y. Burgan, w.	H. Dellinger.
H. G. Ankeny.	J. T. Davis, w and d.
Lyman Paracher, w.	E. M. Ewing.
W. E. McDuffee.	E. E. Gilbert, w.
A. A. Nolan.	S. Harader.
Thos. Alexander, w.	A. Harader, w.
A. D. Thomas.	G. W. Hight, w.
A. Moore, w and k.	G. W. Huntington, d.
H. Moats, k.	W. R. Harlow, w.
J. B. Morgan.	C. D. Lawrence, w.
J. T. Alexander.	W. E. Llewellyn, k.
J. D. Baker.	R. W. Moore, d.
H. B. Campbell, k.	J. W. Miller, d.
R. E. Campbell, k.	S. A. Meeker, twice w.
F. M. Campbell, w.	W. H. Prather, k.
J. H. Carnes, w.	G. W. Prather, w.
S. Prather, k.	J. S. Peregrine, w.
S. T. Raney, k.	W. S. McMillen, d.
J. J. Turney, d.	J. W. Stillson, d.

E. S. Tripp, d.	J. H. Crane, d.
C. Thomkins, d.	W. Irwin.
H. H. Newcomb.	J. Lawrence.
W. Bixler, w.	J. Widner, w.
A. Freshour, w.	J. B. Wolf, k.
A. Dow, w. and d.	L. M. White.
A. Young, w.	N. N. Carpenter.
G. W. Wolf, k.	J. B. Dawson.
R. Robb.	D. Dow.
J. W. Latimer.	G. Dow.
A. L. Clark, w.	A. L. McCord.
W. E. Brown, w.	J. A. Gilbert.
A. B. Starr, w.	G. W. Harlow.
W. Houck, d.	Z. Lawrence, d.
J. H. Shafer.	W. B. Miner.
P. P. Thomas.	T. A. McMillen.
H. E. McMillen.	E. B. Starr, d.
J. W. Fees, (in Andersonville prison 1 year and 17 days.)	
J. B. Chaney, w. (In Libby prison and 1 year and 17 days in Andersonville prison.)	

COMPANY D, TWENTY-NINTH REGIMENT.

Frank M. Davis.	D. M. Hedrick.
J. W. Stewart.	S. Huntington.
J. Munns.	P. Mack.
P. H. Gregory.	J. Shea, d.
F. Snyder.	F. Parson, d.
E. A. Smith, d.	A. J. Stewart.
S. A. Young.	J. Hardesty, d.
P. Smith.	W. Hays, d.
J. A. Thompson.	J. N. Ramsay.
J. L. Thompson.	D. M. Parcher.
L. D. Thomas.	W. Bilderback, w.

John Schooling, k.	F. Tucker, k.
J. Schooling, d.	O. H. Bagley.
W. F. Schooling, d.	C. D. Pumeroy.
G. E. Crow.	J. P. Campbell.
D. E. Lamb, w.	J. D. Hart.
H. C. Nolan.	H. Cockerell.
J. T. Scott, d.	A. P. Gillenwaters.
J. P. Weber.	D. J. Mansfield.
F. M. Thompson.	G. G. Boswell, d.
W. H. Virden, k.	J. Delby.
G. Krebbs.	M. R. Jones.
W. H. Peterson.	B. Reed.
B. F. Martin.	F. P. Snyder.
M. Homan.	B. J. Waters.
G. W. Homan.	J. A. Delay.
J. Harader, d.	J. S. McCall.
M. Warren.	H. H. McCall.
J. Deer, d.	A. C. Reid.
O. S. Ensign.	N. Biggs, d.
T. S. Fletcher.	H. H. Burris, d.
J. Alexander, d.	W. Hedrick.
C. Dow.	D. W. S. Mansfield.
G. E. Scott, d.	J. E. Thompson.

ENLISTMENTS, COMPANY AND REGIMENT UNKNOWN.

Eugene Humbert, k.	A. J. Stewart, (colored).
G. W. Campbell.	A. S. Clark.
J. S. Miller.	R. C. Gerard.
Perry Lawrence.	J. Gentry.
W. Larimer.	R. C. Campbell.
J. Prickett.	J. Winemiller.
J. H. Meyerhoff.	B. Hatch.
J. S. Bodkin.	I. A. Roberts.
J. Wilner.	J. A. Howard.

RUSSIAN

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G. W. Steel.	G. Rooker.
D. L. White.	John Hamilton, 17th.
H. Barringer.	W. Hamilton, 17th.
J. Spencer.	James Hamilton, 17th.
E. Sawyer.	H. D. Welch, 17th, k.
J. J. Gilmore.	Harry Botkin, 4th Cav.
J. H. Burch.	George Barker, 23d.

William Moran.

Henry Thompson, 35th Mo. Unknown cavalry, 1.

John Phillips, 35th Missouri.

Total enlistments—178.

Enlisted men of Company II, killed and wounded	
who died	20
Wounded and recovered	40
Died from disease	20
Loss without regard to residence of Company II	80
Being two thirds of one company.	

SIMILAR STATEMENT FOR COMPANY D.

Killed	3
Wounded	8
Died of disease	30
Total	41

Measures had been adopted by the county board of supervisors, September session, 1862, for relief of families of soldiers in the service, as might be required, and residing in the county. Such acts were observed to be not fully a unit, but tinged sometimes by political feeling for or against the civil war.

For about two and one-half years on and after the year 1861, Dr. Rawson acted under the appointment as enrolling officer and medical examiner at first for Iowa

and afterward for the United States in Adams county, in supervision of military draft and in connection with the civil war. His presence was required more or less in every part of the county, in an inquisitorial way.

Such visits led to some serious scenes of lament as well as some amusing incidents of substitution, often a departure of some few parties to other lands, generally called "Pike's Peak," in escape of enrollment for military service, "Gone to Pike's Peak," being a familiar term.

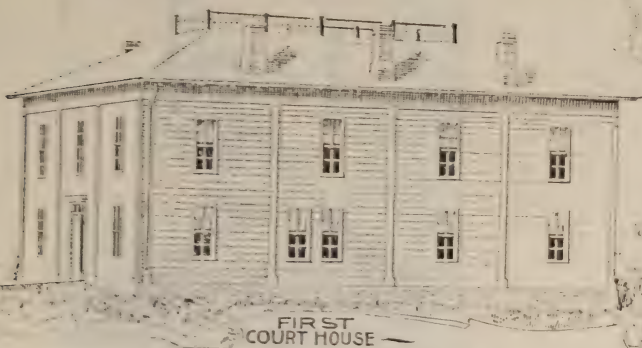
COMING OF THE RAILROAD.

September, 1869, the long looked for railroad was extended through the county, and Corning, and thus closed the controversy about a railroad station, as well as our former mode of mercantile transfer. Until this time our means of shipment and traffic at a distance had been by way of Saint Joseph, Mo., up to the close of 1862, when, owing to more or less civil war feeling, that route was abandoned for Des Moines, and afterwards again changed in 1868 to Ottumwa, Iowa, and thence to a point west, as the railroad progressed toward the Missouri river.

All transfer and deliveries of merchandise had heretofore been by horses and wagons, sometimes drawn by oxen, often accompanied by one of the Rawsons, and sometimes under hardships from cold and wet and storms which at a much later date would have been nearly unbearable. On one occasion a pair of shoes and a new pair of boots were ruined by Dr. Rawson during one trip to Saint Joseph and return, owing to wet and mud and walking most of the way. Stated private places were chosen for rest and lodging, though

sometimes proprietor and driver occupied the wagon at night, and frequently carried provisions for man and beast to save expenses on the way. It was expected that eight days would be consumed in the round trip.

Contrary to Dr. Rawson's judgment a vote was petitioned for and afterwards taken in October, 1869, on the question of removing the county seat from Quincy to Corning, but it failed.



CORNING, IOWA. ERECTED 1872, BURNED FEB. 22, 1889.

It appeared that the supremacy of Corning was not then established to the satisfaction of the public, but afterwards the question was repeated in 1872 at the November election, and the change and removal was decided by a popular vote in favor of Corning. The movement was aided by the erection of a new court house by the citizens of Corning, and its presentation to the county, thus doing away with the hue and cry about taxation for a new building.

The last week in December, 1869, the Rawson

families and their business was moved from Quincy to Corning, and they, under the former name and style opened up to the public again, but in a new location, after having spent fourteen years in the old town, which for eighteen and one-half years had held the county seat of Adams county.



HORACE M. TOWNER.

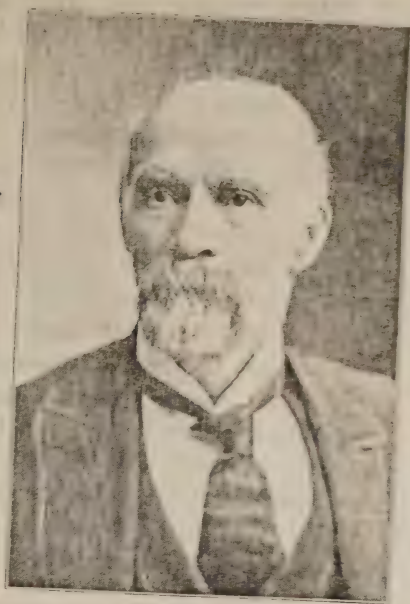
EARLY JUDICIAL BUSINESS.

The district court was held for the first time in Adams county in a log house on land first claimed by the county judge elect, Samuel Baker, September 8, 1852, since then bought and owned by Lewis J. Jeffrey, the northwest quarter of section twenty-four (24), town

seventy-two (72), range thirty-five (35), nearly three miles southwest of the present town of Quincy.

Allen A. Bradford had been elected district judge in April, 1853, for the Sixth judicial district, and commissioned for five years by Stephen Hempstead, governor of Iowa, dated May 17, 1853. His second term of court, April, 1854, was held in a house covered with

Corning Free
Public Library.



JAMES M. CLARK.

split clapboards, owned by Samuel Baker, on lot seven (7) or eight (8), block sixteen (16), south of the square in Quincy. Judge Bradford was from Sidney, in Fremont county. It is said that he got into an altercation over the location of a new town in Nebraska and was struck a blow on the head which terminated his

court life. This was soon after his term of court in Quincy in April, 1854.

After Bradford came E. H. Sears, of Sidney, Fremont county, Iowa, as district judge, with the April term of 1855, and closed his official life October, 1862. Then followed the election of James G. Day as district court judge, also of Fremont county, in April, 1863, closing in 1870, who was succeeded by James W. McDill, of Union county, who was the following year elected to congress. All the foregoing had deceased.

The only district court judge elected from Adams county was Horace M. Towner in 1891 and after.

The Iowa legislature has been represented by Adams county, viz:

1865, A. K. Crawford, house.

1871, Frank M. Davis, house.

1875 and '77, George A. Morse, house.

1879, Edmund Homan, house.

1881, Thomas L. Maxwell, house.

1883, Benj. Widner, house.

1885 and '87, Ed C. Russell, house.

1891 and '93, W. O. Mitchell, house.

1895 and '97, James M. Clark, house.

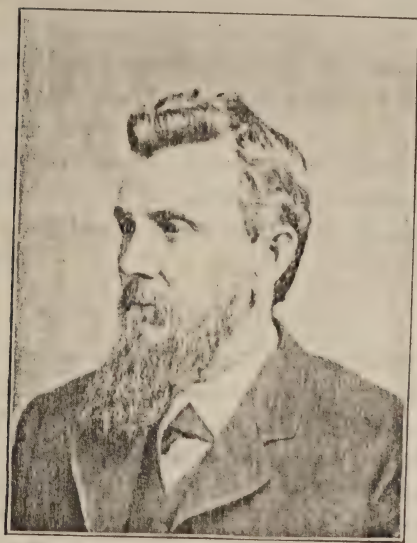
1899, C. S. Crouse, house.

1895, W. O. Mitchell, senate.

NEWSPAPER HISTORY OF ADAMS COUNTY.

The first printing house and weekly newspaper was called the "Corning Sentinel," which opened and was published in April, 1858, under the supervision of L. Raguet, editor. The next year started a short-lived paper called the "Queen City Vindicator," or sometimes the "Switch," volume 1, number 1, January 8, 1869, with the motto—"Be sure you are right, and then

go it." An extract from its editorial goes on to say, "And was not Corning located for the express purpose of obtaining the county seat? Say no, and you will give the lie to your own friends, to D. N. Smith, to Ritchey, to the Rawsons." The editor, James McYoung, presided at Queen City, but the mechanical work was done at Brookville, (now Brooks) some five or six miles away. It died in infancy.



J. M. GLADSON—AUGUST 1851.

The "Adams County Gazette" came next, by Webster Eaton, in 1866, at Quincy; bought out by Arthur L. Wells in 1869, and soon removed to Corning, sold to Bolivar W. Harlow, then to J. W. Ragsdale, lastly to W. H. Hoxie.

The "Queen City Leader," by C. W. Sherman, in

1869, soon removed to Quincy as the "Quincy Journal" in 1870, short lived.

During the decade after 1870 were published wholly as campaign papers the "Adams County Courant," the "Workman," the "New Departure," the "Watchman" and the "True Union." The only one remaining was the "Adams County Union," about 1876, by Ed C. Russell, who sold to O. E. Paul, sold to King, sold to Schooley & Hopp, sold to Burch & Shaw, sold to Weliver, who bought and united with it the "Adams County Republican," published by Dr. R. E. Glover two or three years previously, and sold to Paul S. Junkin, December, 1898.

The "Adams County Free Press" first issued in 1882, by Ed C. Russell, and after changing several times into other hands came to Ed C. Russell again, October 1899.

A CAMP MEETING EPISODE.

To recall a scene of notoriety, it is proper to remember the early day camp meeting. The public had no means for frequent pleasurable stir and the religious gathering was each year looked forward to with interest as an opportunity for old and young to participate in such ways as might have their bearing, even if not always with sober sanctity. While it may be doubted about the number of souls claimed to have been saved on such occasions, there is no mistaking the contributions to wide-spread enthusiasm. A time for any and all to talk and sing, the opportunity was eagerly sought to announce a violent anathema in one direction, and give vent to soul-stirring shouts in another; all combining to gratify beliefs and faith, and to lead votaries to satisfaction in their intensity of exclamation. On the

other hand, as addition to variety, at a camp meeting held on the then Jeffrey farm, summer of 1856 or 1857, some young chaps wanted supper and called at the camp boarding house for it, but were refused.

A mixture was being gotten up for breakfast the next morning of beef or other meats with potatoes and vegetables, to satisfy the appetites of the righteously disposed. The youngsters, not to be outwitted, surreptitiously sneaked out the well-prepared savory batch, or in other words, stole it for their own use and the next morning the whole company became dependent upon the Gentry family for their breakfast, nearly cleaning them out.

HARDSHIPS OF PIONEERS.

It will do to refer to the sources of hardships which contributed to greater and extensive severities.

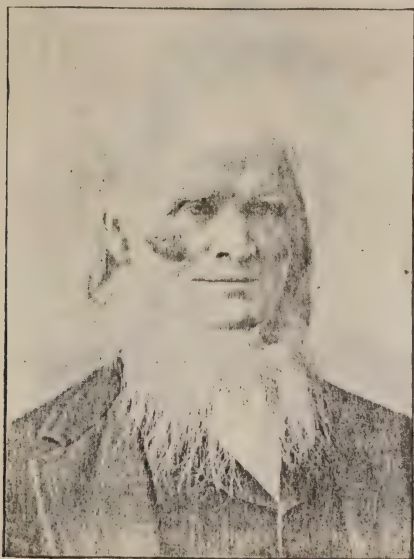
The summer of 1856 was unfavorable to growing crops, especially to corn. It was so frost-bitten and soft as to be almost a failure and was soon absorbed by home use and demand of passing emigration. Many persons in the winter of 1857 went, in deep snow, from eighty to ninety and one hundred miles south in Missouri for supplies for feeding and house use at home; seventy-five cents being the frequent price in those localities.

The little corn grown at home in 1856 sold often afterwards at \$1.50 per bushel, even at times \$2, and once at \$3.

The warm season of 1857 was noted for having frost in every month in scattered localities in the county, and during May up to the first of June snow banks were seen in sheltered places through the timber, following a severe and protracted winter, when for ninety days the snow and heavy icicles did not move, and the ther-

meter hid away to thirty, thirty-four and forty degrees below zero.

The warm season of 1863 was gloomy as the civil war, and so rainy and damp that fires in general were a necessity to prevent an outgrowth of mouldy fungus on carpets and furniture in houses, as well as even to add to comfort.



DANIEL RITCHEY—JULY 18 5.

The winter of 1863 and '64 was notorious for scarcity of potatoes, so that the place of that vegetable was supplied at the table of a public boarding house in Quincy by a continuous repetition of fried corn mush which became monotonous, but under the circumstances imagination took the place of the missing tuber in an

enforced diet. The potato hunger was universal and could not be supplied.

On one occasion of revival in a church in Quincy religious ecstasy led a shouting damsel to fall exhausted into the arms of her waiting lover, and at another time a fervent prayer went forth that the "Lord would bring our minister some wheat, oats and corn." The



J. R. HOLDBROOK—SEPT 1853.

sequel was marriage in one case, unknown in the other.

It is here proper to notice an example of the Fourth of July celebration held in Quincy, 1852. After usual preliminaries, as stated by A. K. Crawford, president, and music by a band, came an oration by B. J. Waters,

then music, followed by an oration by Frank M. Davis and call to refreshments. Toasts were in order, among which were: "To Bunker Hill, the Nest where the American Eagle was Hatched," Frank M. Davis; "Old Maids and Old Bachelors, the Remains of a Once Noble Race," Homer C. Rawson; "Hoops and the Equator, God bless 'em—the one Encircles the Earth, the Other



HARVEY CHUBB—FIRST MAYOR OF CORNING.

the Heaven," E. Y. Burgan; "May the Charm of Ladies be as Their Skirts, and May the Gents Never get as Tight as their Breeches," E. Y. Burgan.

MATTERS PERSONAL.

The public interests of Dr. Rawson were prominent only in minor ways. He had taken an active part in

the public school matters soon after becoming established in Adams county. April, 1867, he was elected one of the school directors at Quincy, and their secretary, but vacated the place in the last days of 1869 when he left Quincy to reside in Corning. April, 1870, he was elected one of the school directors for the independent school district of Corning, then newly formed, for one year. March, 1872, he was elected for three years; March, 1876, re-elected, for three years, and in March, 1879, again re-elected, but in February, 1880, he resigned, after having stood by the financial interests of the district until final payment of a bonded debt of \$10,800, which he was especially instrumental in settlement of in advance, under the severe taxation, but saving the district some \$400 in interest.

March, 1886, to March, 1889, again he was elected, and after an interval, also in March, 1897, in face of personal protests, he was elected for three years under a universal demand by the public for the readjustment into better form of operation a school policy which was held to have been greatly degenerated. This completes a total service of sixteen years, seven months, during a period of thirty-three years, and often under annoying circumstances which sometimes became exasperating, but successful for public interests.

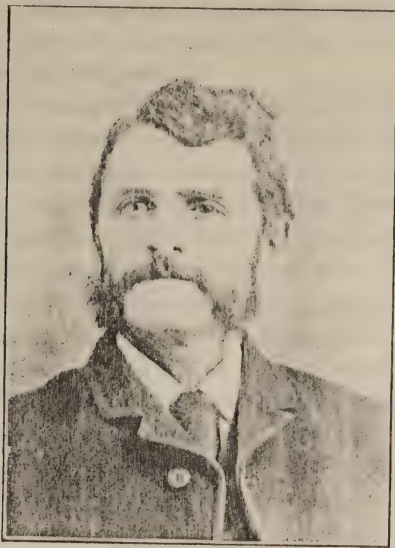
FORTY YEARS A DRUGGIST.

In May, 1856, began the business as druggists, the firm name of A. A. & H. C. Rawson, the first in that line to open in Adams county.

Quincy, then the county seat, was the only town, so called, in the county, and the sole locality of trade, such as it was. The idea of settling for more than a generation to come was uncertain, but there was a certain

freedom about early days which became attractive enough to concentrate our energies here, and with all supposed drawbacks our early days, beginning with twenty-three and twenty-five years of age remain an attractive vision.

November, 1855, the drug store really opened under the name of H. C. Rawson, and in the following May was changed as first named above by the arrival and



P. P. HUMBERT 1851.

addition of Dr. A. A. Rawson. Both were graduates of Rush Medical College February, 1855, but upon their union in Quincy it was deemed best that the labor of practice of medicine should devolve upon the elder of the firm. The beginning was in a one room log house with every facility for ventilation in its structure, and none the worse for that to enthusiastic young blood.

That place was the center of all our secrets whether open or shut, the day time given to the public, the night sacred to repose upon a bedstead constructed by myself. The old house still stands, a memento of early days. The autumn of 1860 brought a change into a frame house with conveniences and comfort, which so remained until the last days of December, 1869, led us to desert Quincy and remove to Corning. Change of the county seat was made by public vote in November, 1872, and then was consummated the means which led to the town of the present.

Still our business firm went on until in June, 1895, when it was changed by the sale to Dr. Olive of H. C. Rawson's interest and removal of the latter to Denver, Colo., whereupon the name became Rawson & Olive. Another change is made whereby the last days of the original firm name have come to a close by the retirement of Dr. A. A. Rawson, after a continuous service of forty years, during the whole of which period not an accident took place to the detriment of the public. In every exhibition of the peculiarities of pioneer life I have been a partaker, the mere, sad conception of which is brightened by the wish to try it over again. I have not lived entirely for myself, but in many ways of official trust scattered through that forty years have been made recipient of positions for the benefit of the public, not without avail for the honor and credit of those who confided in me to act for and with them.

May, 1896.

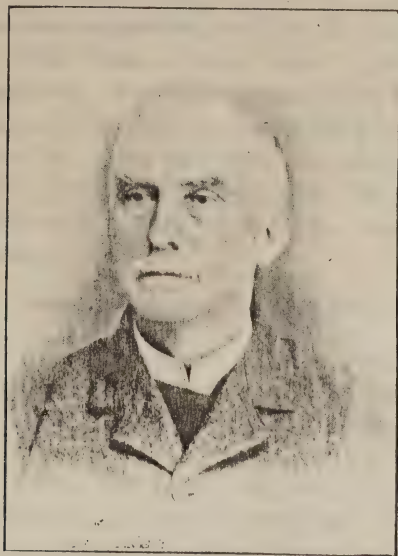
ALLEN A. RAWSON.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

The position of county agent for the American Bible Society had been accepted by Dr. Rawson, who finally

in a few years brought affairs from a state of chaos and debt into one of credit in the parent society of not less than \$150. This was previous to 1880.

In 1873 he was appointed by the United States pension department as medical examiner for Adams county and vicinity, which office he retained for seventeen years. His services were required in the examination of



IRA P. CLARK—APRIL, 1872.

cases sent to him from Lucas county on the east to the Missouri river, west, greatly in excess of the territory which he had contemplated. Cases of prior examination by other examiners, outside of Adams county, were repeatedly referred to Dr. Rawson for special investigation by the commissioner of pensions. In response to inquiry and even mild protest he was in-

formed by a member of the medical department at Washington, D. C., that it was owing to his precision and reliability in professional detail, and was requested to let things remain. The experience as medical examiner brought out the inside of human nature. One party desiring a pension was strenuous for acceptance, who was shown to have been a deserter. Several cases of application were invalids in consequence of intemperance. One person was before him so drunk that an examination was impossible, and yet he was fortified by a letter of credit from a banker and a physician in a neighboring town. Another was proved to have had the first evidence of disability five years after his discharge from the service. Now and then a pensioner was perfectly curable, but would prefer to have his pension with the disability, in fact it was with some, anything for a pension, even a dollar rate.

INCORPORATION OF CORNING.

November 11, 1871, at an election ordered by the township trustees, there were ninety-six votes cast for and sixteen against the incorporation of the town.

The case was referred to Samuel Forrey, judge of the then circuit court, who issued an order for incorporation of the town of Corning in compliance with the petition and votes therefore, at the December term, 1871. The petition claimed the town then contained 750 population. There is no evidence of further action until the first Monday in March, 1872, when Harvey Chubb was elected the first Mayor of the town. Long after, April 7, 1892, a special census was taken by W. B. McLaughlin at order of the town council, which made the number of inhabitants to be 2,082, since which time the population has retrograded.

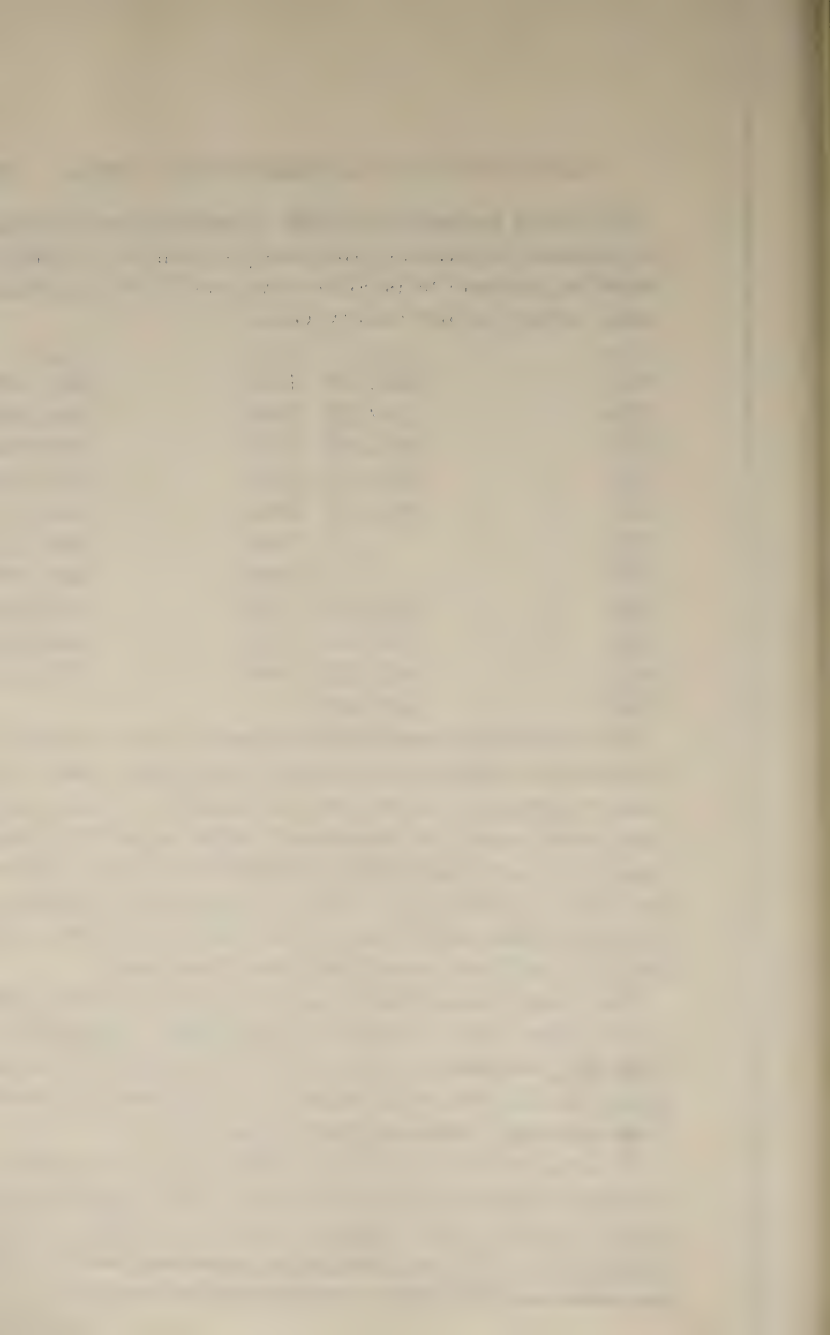
To gratify curiosity the table appended gives mostly the assessed valuation of the incorporation of Corning, including railroad beds after town and state equalization, during the first twenty years.

YEAR.		VALUE.	YEAR.		VALUE.
1873	-	\$175,739	1884	-	\$277,428
1874	-	193,870	1885	-	282,809
1875	-	221,020	1886	-	277,861
1876	-	280,255	1887	-	268,045
1877	-	267,463	1888	-	265,772
1878	-	1889	-	289,517
1879	-	1890	-	281,709
1880	-	235,337	1891	-	312,536
1881	-	286,333	1892	-	319,659
1882	-	362,252	1893	-	375,151
1883	-	368,902			

By order of the town council August 6, 1888, a special election was held on the question of issuing bonds to erect waterworks, in the sum of \$15,000. That sum was based upon the municipal valuation of 1887, and was \$1,559 in excess of the constitutional limit of five per cent. Careless as that was, involving illegality, the proposition at first was in the sum of \$20,000, and the early talk was utterly wild and thoughtless.

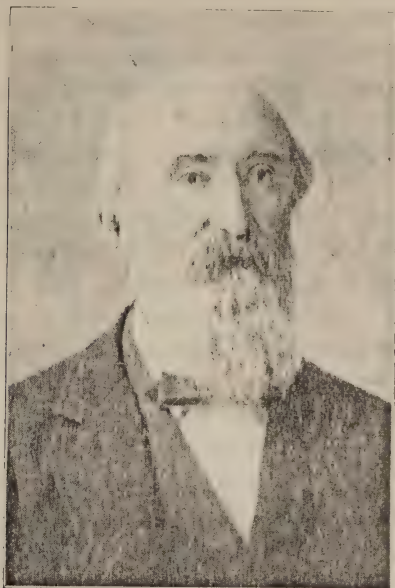
Two hundred and thirty-one votes were cast for, and twenty-three votes against the proposition. August 9, following, ordinance number 27 was adopted, to issue bonds for \$15,000, with interest at six per cent, payable semi-annually, February and August 15.

To urge on a favorable vote the claim was shouted that the revenue from public use of water would even leave a surplus, after paying expenses; whereas in not one year has this been true, even including the levy of an extra five mills water tax as additional support.



The receipts of the town in 1888 were \$3,614.60 and for five succeeding years, including 1893, were an average of \$4,507.94, by no means equaling the lavish expenses made up by issue of warrants in excess of legality.

September 4, 1888, under an enthusiastic plea for a



HENRY G. ANKENY, 1890.

city hall, the mayor and council made a contract with D. S. Sigler, under form of a lease, for a city hall and lot at \$4,690, with interest at ten per cent per annum, and due on or before ten years. The last payment was made in May, 1893. It can be seen that all business was done with no regard to a justifiable financial care and balance, but with a careless extravagance.

March, 1893, Dr. Rawson was elected for three years a member of the trustees or council, of the town of Corning, Iowa, under popular clamor for change, owing to alleged illegal and extravagant service on the part of predecessors in office.

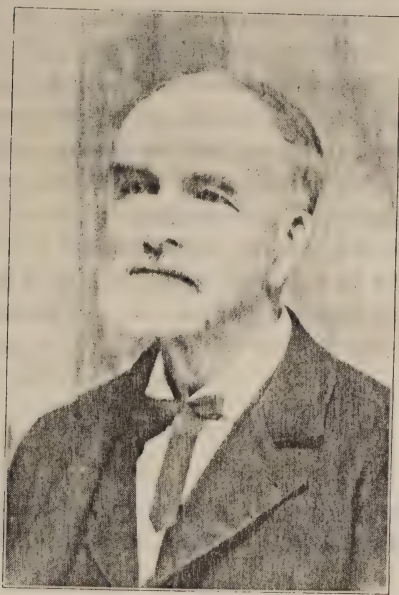
It was found that suspicion was based on facts, and prior methods had led to an excess of warrant issues to a debt of more than \$40,000, including the bonded debt of \$15,000, which, added to school district also excessive and unwarranted expenses would have counted up nearly or quite \$50,000 for a town of some 1,800 people, and a corporate valuation which had been excessively made \$375,151 in 1893.

This assessment was afterwards made more guardedly to alleviate the individual taxation, but the work had been done. The railroad valuation was generally little more than \$10,000 and was adjusted by the state authorities. Consonant with the temper of the public, and upon suit begun in favor of warrant holders by a prominent citizen as principal, in the May term, 1893, of the Adams county district court, the question of defense, owing to positive illegality of a large amount of warrant issue by the prior town authorities was considered reasonable and agreed upon with Dr. Rawson as principal intervenor, denying the validity of the claim.

March term, 1894, attorneys for plaintiff offered a compromise to defendant which was accepted, after timorous advice from others, and judgment was entered against the town in the sum of \$9,971, being 55 cents per 100 cents of the claim to be settled by the levy of a judgment tax. All the labor and worry was borne by Dr. Rawson, and \$50 paid by him out of the \$110 attorney fees.

The settlement was a means of extinguishing a debt

by special levy, but should have been refused by those interested with the intervenor and carried to the limit of trial, and would have been but for the defection of others, and their fears of the uncertainty of law. The final outcome placed the town in a way of self-support again and should be allowed to remain so.



ARTHUR L. WELLS—OCTOBER, 1867.

Professional services were fast becoming too laborious to Dr. Rawson, and he had begun to retire from medical practice several years before, and especially relinquished it in 1895, and thereafter, excepting as a favor granted to some few who were disposed to claim his counsel or services, after experience for years in a personal way.

Homer C. Rawson had married Henrietta H. Hamilton at Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1862, and in 1869 Dr. Rawson married her sister, Mary, at the same place.

In May, 1878, the wife of A. A. Rawson had died, thus leaving the husband to keep his home alone. This was done, with the assistance of hired help, for sixteen and one-half years. October 11, 1894, he married Mrs. Mary Ann Bender-Ricker, whose father, David Bender, had died in Corning a few years before.

The subject of kind acts to others was always a part of the ordinary life of Dr. Rawson. While often misplaced in good deeds, to the regret and detriment of himself, there are some bright spots of reward.

He has evidence of contributing cash benefits to an extent not less than \$12,000 during his residence in Adams county, Iowa, wholly designed to be accommodative or charitable, but largely reciprocated by that thankless and utterly indifferent feeling in return, which destroys all pleasures in a donor.

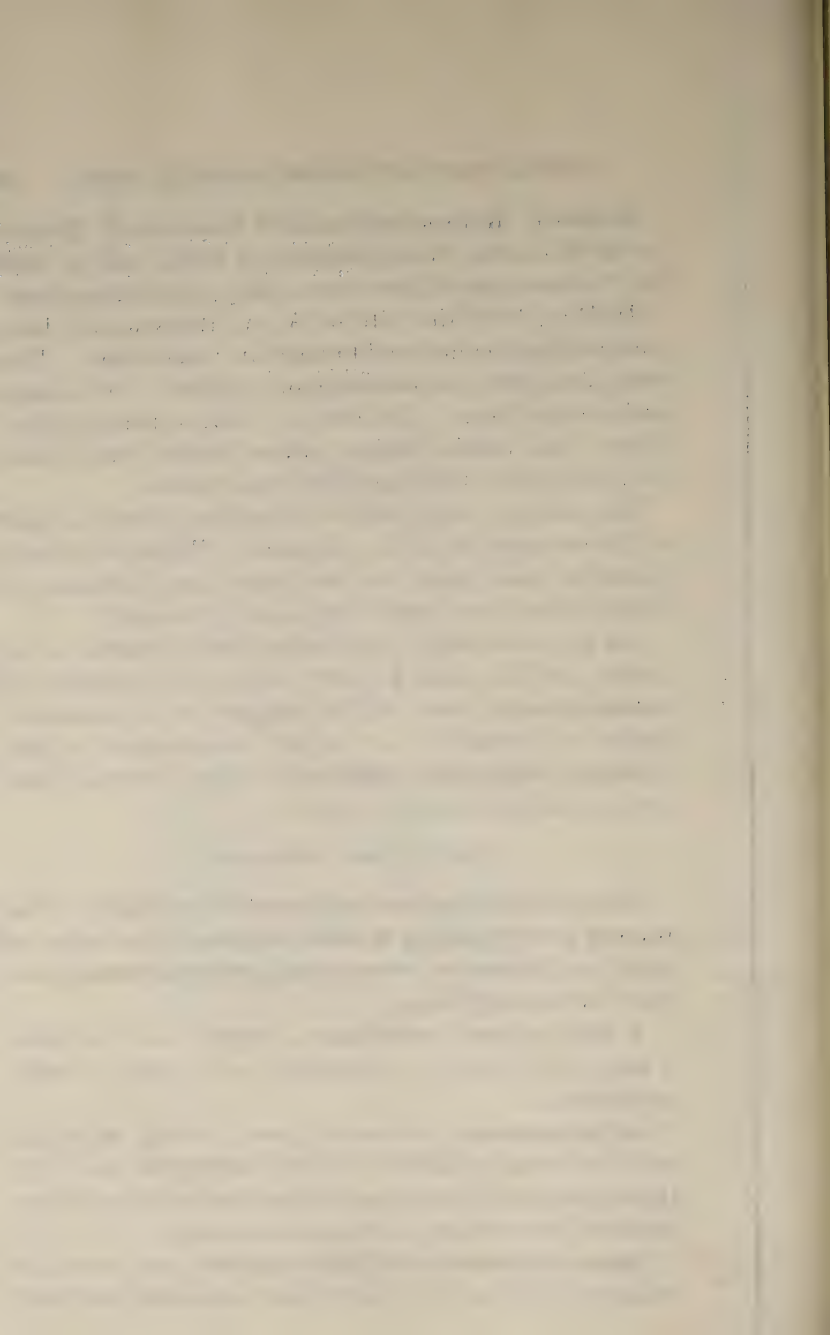
CONCLUDING RETROSPECT.

No one can be made to look over Adams county in the present year and bring to mind the aspect and view of 1852, and somewhat subsequently, without having been there in the early days.

A vista without resemblance, except here and there a slight remnant for recognition, or a point of early adventure.

In the summer a vast sea of green, thickly sprinkled with flowers, prominent being lady's slipper and lily, through which a path or road led untrammelled by fences, bordered everywhere by beautiful scenery.

Some wild animals still held their sway as late as the winter of 1856 and '57; wild deer sometimes led their



pursuers through Quincy town, and their flesh formed part of many a dish for the table.

Mink were plenty, otter less often seen, and their skins made a common article of traffic for sake of fur, mingled often with raccoon, fox, wildcat or wolf, opossum and even the unsavory polecat had its place.

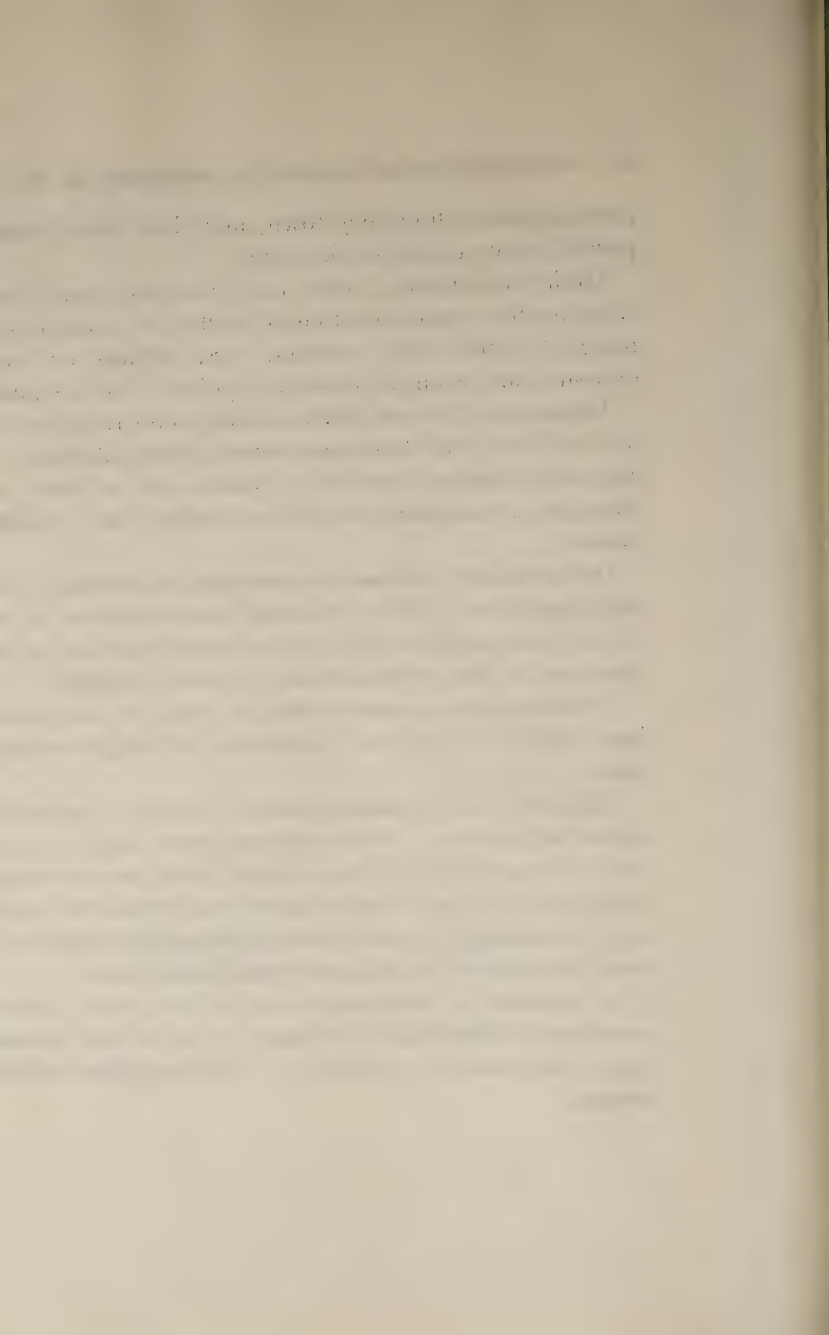
Remnants of former Indian tribes would return to the old trail, and with bows and arrows please children by shooting pennies from top of posts, clad in their old time dress, wandering over once familiar land in silent lament.

But even early whites who usurped their scenery can look back over it with a pleasant contemplation to see it, no more as then, but now in transformation to the plow and to the golden reward of labor's struggle.

Freedom was no more in the air than on the prairie land, white with snow or glimmering in bright summer days.

The early ones scarcely needed roads or mounted signs for guidance. So accustomed were they to travel and to change of place, that a distant point, the mere shape of objects, the lay of sun or moon, the contour of country, was enough to lead them aright as unerringly as it could have done the original tribes before them.

It became an unconscious art to be a guide, which was incomprehensible to ordinary senses of the present day, and must be practiced to be comprehended for action.



ADDENDUM.

Dr. A. A. Rawson, the author of the foregoing pages, departed this life on Monday, February 26, 1900, at the age of 68 years, 11 months and 12 days. His demise was the result of a sudden attack of apoplexy. After retiring for the night, he complained of feeling ill and upon endeavoring to arise fell back unconscious. Medical assistance was immediately summoned, but all efforts were futile and the end came in a few short hours.

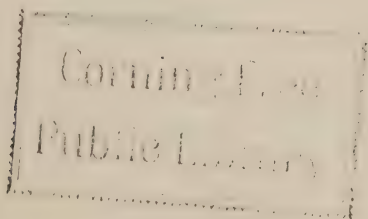
The salient features of Dr. Rawson's early life are given in the introductory pages of this memoir, which occupied much of his attention just previous to his death, and which he had just placed in the hands of the publisher when the summons came. His whole thought was centered in the successful culmination of this little contribution to the early history of Adams county, and he devoted long hours of research and interviewed many old settlers to get at the exact data contained within these pages, with a view of presenting a copy to each of the old friends of his early manhood days in this community, who were associates in many of the scenes enumerated, around which so many tender and hallowed memories cluster. It is to be regretted that he could not realize the full fruition of his labors in that direction.

Those who will receive a copy of this monograph are thoroughly familiar with its author's public life, and

are in a position to appreciate his earnest and enthusiastic endeavors along all lines of public advancement, particularly in educational matters. They know the zeal which the deceased manifested during the many years that he was called upon to act as a member of the school board, and also as a member of the municipal board of Corning. Though these duties were often a source of vexation, yet the Doctor ever felt a sense of satisfaction at having been instrumental in bringing about a higher and better standard in municipal and educational affairs. His interest in such matters never flagged, as was manifested by the provisions of his will in bequeathing certain sums to Tabor college, the Corning public library, the Masonic lodge and other meritorious institutions. That the public appreciated his efforts is attested by the fact that the Rawson school was named in his honor, and by other equally demonstrative methods which it would not be my province to enumerate.

The funeral obsequies of deceased were held from the residence, on March 1, 1900, the ceremonies at the grave being in charge of Instruction lodge, No. 275, A. F. & A. M., of which Dr. Rawson was a charter member. A very large concourse of friends and neighbors were present on the occasion, and expressions of sorrow were universal.

MRS. A. A. RAWSON.





PROGRESSIVE 1900.

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